

St. Paul Pension Management Center

You are here

We are here
to help you
find your way



Presenter(s)

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What We Will Cover

- PMC Jurisdiction and Overview
- Standardized Forms
- Outdated Forms
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension
- Federal Tax Information (FTI)
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- Burial Benefits
- Accrued Benefits
- Substitution and Appeals

PMC Jurisdiction Map

Claims for VA Pension and Survivor benefits from 21 states, Central and South America.

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Utah
- Washington
- Wyoming
- Central/South America



Standardized VA Forms

- VA requires all informal claims to be on a standard VA-Prescribed Form by submitting a completed VA Form 21-0966, *Intent to File Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation*
 - A complete claim must be received within **one year** of the date that the intent to file is received (for the same general benefit indicated on the intent to file)

Standardized VA Forms (continued)

An intent to file may be received from the claimant or his/her representative:

- Electronically via eBenefits or the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal,
- Over the phone with a VA National Call Center or other public contact representative or
- On the paper VA Form 21-0966, which may be mailed, faxed or delivered in person

Standard Notice of Disagreement (SNOD)

- Claimants will be required to use a standard NOD form in cases where VA provides the form with the decision notice.
- This does not pertain to PMC decisions, it is specific to compensation decisions.

Standardized VA Forms – Common Forms

Intent to File

21-0966

Subsequent Survivors Claim

21-534EZ

21-601

Special Monthly Pension

21-2680

21-0779

Initial Veterans Pension

21-527EZ

21-0518

21-0519

21-0514

Dependency Change

21-686c

21-674

Subsequent Veterans Pension

21-527EZ

Income Adjustments*

21-0516

21-0516/0518

21-0517

21-8416

21-4185

Initial Survivors Claim

21-4165

21-534EZ

21-535

Burial Benefits

21-601

21-530

*A standard form is NOT required for a report that may cause a reduction in benefits, or for request of reconsideration, received within one year of the decision.

Outdated Forms Guidance

- In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act and associated policies and procedures of the Office of Management and Budget, outdated versions of forms can only be accepted in limited circumstances as these are no longer the official form prescribed by the Secretary of VA. For claims processing purposes, VA will generally accept only the current version of a form.
- M21-1 III.ii.1.C.8.a

Outdated Forms Guidance (Exceptions)

- Outdated versions of forms (*excluding NODs*) may be accepted:
 - When the previous version is received within 12 months after a issuance of a VA form
 - when generated through a VA electronic claims submission system, such as eBenefits, Stakeholder Enterprise Portal, Digits-to-Digits, or other VA system that includes form-generation capacity
 - when submitted by an authorized VSO representative whether accepted electronically or via paper

Outdated Forms Guidance

Form	Current Revision Date	Previous Revision Date	Accept Previous Revision Until
VA Form 21P-530: Application for Burial Benefits	APR 2017	JUN/JUL 2015	04/30/2018
VA Form 21-526: Veterans Application for Compensation and/or Pension	NOV 2014	JUN 2014	11/30/2015
VA Form 21P-527EZ: Application for Pension	APR 2016	JUN 2014	04/30/2017
VA Form 21P-527: Income, Net Worth, and Employment Statement	APR 2016	JUN 2014	04/30/2017
VA Form 21P-534EZ: Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits	JUN 2018	JUL 2015	06/30/2019
VA Form 21P-534: Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension, and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child	JUN 2018	JUN 2014	06/30/2019
VA Form 21P-535: Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation by Parent(s)	MAY 2018	MAR 2015	05/31/2019
VA Form 21P-601: Application for Accrued Amounts Due a Deceased Beneficiary	SEP 2016	SEP 2015	09/30/2017
VA Form 21-2680: Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance	MAY 2015	JUN 2008	05/31/2016
VA Form 21P-8049: Request for Details of Expenses	SEP 2016	AUG 2007	09/30/2017
VA Form 21-0779: Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance	FEB 2017	MAR 2010	02/28/2018
VA Form 21P-0516-1: Improved Pension Eligibility Verification Report	JUN 2018	APR 2015	06/30/2019
VA Form 21P-0517-1: Improved Pension Eligibility Verification Report	JUN 2018	APR 2015	06/30/2019
VA Form 21P-0518-1: Improved Pension Eligibility Verification Report	JUN 2018	APR 2015	06/30/2019
VA Form 21P-8416: Medical Expense Report	JAN 2017	SEP 2014	01/31/2018
VA Form 21-686c: Declaration of Status of Dependents	JUN 2017	JUN 2014	06/30/2018
VA Form 21-674: Request for Approval of School Attendance	JUN 2018	APR 2015	06/30/2019
VA Form 21-22a: Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative	AUG 2015	JUN 2009	08/31/2016
VA Form 21-0966: Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC	MAR 2017	JUL 2015	03/31/2018
VA Form 21-0845: Authorization to Disclose Personal Information to a Third Party	SEP 2016	MAY 2015	09/30/2017

Pension Benefits

Qualifications for Veterans Pension

- 90 days or more of active military service, at least 1 day during a period of war. Effective September 7, 1980, must serve at least 24 months of continuous service (or entire period called to active duty)
- Discharged under conditions other than dishonorable
- Permanent and Total Disability (P&T) by rating, age 65 or older, in receipt of Social Security Disability, or in a nursing home
- Meets income and net worth guidelines

How is P&T Determined?

- Veterans under the age of 65 and not in receipt of Social Security Disability will require additional medical evidence showing entitlement exists for:
 - One non service connected disability ratable at 60%.
- **OR**
- Combined disabilities ratable at 70% with at least one disability ratable at 40%.

Pension Benefits

Qualifications for Survivors Pension

- Widow or qualifying child of a wartime Veteran with qualifying service
- Meets income and net worth guidelines
- Meets marital requirements as the surviving spouse
- Meets child requirements
 - Under age 18
 - 18 to 23 in school
 - Helpless before age 18

Special Monthly Pension

Housebound

- Substantially confined to the home
- Single disability rated at 100% and an additional disability at 60% or more

Aid and Attendance

- In need of assistance of another person with his/her activities of daily living. i.e. inability to dress or undress, keep ones self clean, adjust prosthetic appliance, or bedridden.
- In a licensed nursing home receiving skilled or intermediate care (granted administratively, medical evidence of disability not required)

Note(s):

- Medical evidence needs to include diagnosis and description of severity of each disability
- Must be signed by a health care professional (MD, DO, NP, PA, VA RN)
- VA cannot accept the signature of an RN outside of the VA system, chiropractor, physical therapist, etc.

What is Countable Income?

- Earnings
- Retirement income
- Interest
- Dividends
- Unemployment compensation
- Business income
- Life insurance dividends

What is **Not** Countable Income for VA Purposes?

- VA Pension
- Profit from sale of primary residence
- Welfare (benefits received from social services)
- SSI (Supplemental Security Income)

Reporting Change in Income

Tell us:

- Source of income
- Date income began/changed
- How income changed
 - Income increased
 - Income decreased
 - Income terminated
 - Income began
- Gross amount (before deductions)

Reporting Medical Expenses

- Include all five details required when reporting medical expenses (VA Form 21-8416)
 - Purpose, amount paid, date paid, name of provider, and who were the expenses for

Report medical expenses for the period _____ thru _____. If no dates appear on this line, refer to the accompanying letter or Eligibility Verification Report for the dates your medical expense report should cover.				
5. ITEMIZATION OF MEDICAL EXPENSES				
A. PURPOSE <i>(Physician or Hospital Charges Eyeglasses, Oxygen Rental, Medical Insurance, etc.)</i>	B. AMOUNT PAID BY YOU	C. DATE PAID (Mo/Day/Yr)	D. NAME OF PROVIDER <i>(Name of Doctor, Dentist, Hospital, Lab, etc.)</i>	E. FOR WHOM PAID (Self, spouse, child)

Most Common Medical Expenses

- Medicare Part B premiums
- Private medical insurance
 - Life and burial insurance do not count
- Prescription and non-prescription drugs
- Adaptive equipment
- Care expenses
 - Nursing Home
 - Assisted Living
 - In-home Care

Continuing Medical Expenses

- Prediction of future expenses
- Amount and frequency of payment is easily predictable
- Common continuing medical expenses:
 - Nursing home, assisted living, in-home care
 - Private medical insurance
 - Medicare Part B and D
 - Incontinence supplies
 - Diabetic supplies

In-Home Care

- Documentation of the expense is required (M21-1 V.iii.1.G.3.q)
 - Typically requested on Care Expense Statement
 - Can also accept: receipted bill, statement on provider's letterhead, computer summary, IRS W-2, ledger, or bank statement
- We need to know
 - Name of care provider
 - Out-of-pocket monthly amount paid
 - Date service began/stopped
 - Specific services provided

In-Home Care

- Annual verification is not required (M21-1 V.iii.1.G.3.q)
- Claimant is required to submit documentation of expenses
 - When in-home attendant fees are first claimed, or
 - When the person/company providing the service changes
- Proof of payment may also be requested when the adjudicator has reason to question the medical expenses claimed (M21-1 V.iii.1.G.5.c)
 - Example: Amount of medical expenses claimed exceeds reported income

Nursing Home or Assisted Living

We need to know:

- Date entered facility
- Projected length of stay
- Facility name
- Monthly out-of-pocket cost
- Facility address and telephone number
- If Medicaid is covering part of the costs

Independent Living Facilities

If the claimant is in an independent living facility, we need the following:

- Itemized list of services provided, specifically the activities of daily living (ADLs)
- Breakdown of nursing and “rent” fees
- Date entered
- Projected length of stay
- Facility name
- Facility address and telephone number

Medicaid \$90 rate

38 CFR 3.551 (i) states VA must limit claimants to the \$90/month for a Veteran, surviving spouse or surviving child who:

- Has neither spouse nor dependent child, and
- Is in a Medicaid approved nursing facility, and
- A Medicaid plan covers in part or all of his or her nursing home care.

Note(s):

- No overpayment is created when reducing to the \$90 rate
- The \$90 payment is for personal use and cannot be used to cover nursing home expenses
- Exception: not reduced to the \$90 rate if in a State Veterans Home
- Be sure to include the name and phone number of the facility
- If claimant has a running award, due process is initiated before \$90 rate is set.

Calculating Income for VA Purposes (IVAP)

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Total Annual Income} \\ - \text{Expenses} \\ + \text{5\% Medical Deduction*} \\ \hline \text{IVAP} \end{array}$$

*The 5% medical deduction is only applied when expenses exceed 5% of the MAPR (Maximum Annual Pension Rate).

Example

- A single Veteran has monthly Social Security income of \$1,000.00
- The Veteran pays \$300.00 monthly for private medical insurance
- The Veteran has no other income or expenses
- What is the Veteran's IVAP (Income for VA Purposes)?

**Assume this occurs in 2017*

- MAPR for single Veteran as of December 1, 2017:
\$13,166 (5%: \$659)

Example

\$12,000.00
- 3,600.00
+ 659.00
\$9,059.00

Total Annual Income
- Expenses
+ 5% Medical Deduction
IVAP

Calculating Monthly Rate

MAPR

- IVAP

Annual Pension Rate (APR)

- Monthly Pension Rate = Divide APR by 12 and drop the cents

\$13,166

- \$9,059

\$4,107

- Monthly Pension Rate = \$4,107 / 12 = **\$342.00**

Up-front Eligibility Verification

- Federal Tax Information (FTI) is data obtained from a claimant's tax return information
- Provided to VA by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Social Security Administration (SSA)
- Information used to verify the income of applicants
- Currently applies to Initial Live Pension and Initial Survivor Pension claims received on or after April 1, 2014

Net Worth

The term ***net worth*** for VA purposes includes all personal property owned by the claimant, except for personal effects suitable to the claimant's reasonable mode of life.

- Veteran's net worth includes the net worth of his/her spouse
- Normal household objects and possessions are not included in a net worth determination. Motor vehicles used for family transportation are *not* included in determining net worth, nor is the claimant's home.
- However, personal property that is owned primarily as an investment, for example, an antique automobile or a coin collection, is included in determining net worth.

Note: The term ***personal property*** includes all tangible property that is not land (real property) or fixtures on land.

Net Worth

A formal administrative decision is required if:

- The beneficiary has net worth of \$80,000 or more, whether or not net worth bars entitlement, or
- Net worth (of any amount) bars entitlement.

Factors to consider include:

- Income
- Family expenses
- Claimant's life expectancy, and
- Ability to convert the assets into cash

Net Worth

Sale of Home

- Considered a conversion of assets
- Change in net worth may affect pension eligibility
 - Submit VA Form 21-8049
- Termination of benefits due to excessive net worth is effective January 1st of the following year

Due Process

- Due Process is initiated when information is obtained that could adversely affect a beneficiary's award
 - Information is usually obtained from a third party or through a data matching program
 - VBA will inform the claimant of new information discovered and provide them 60 days to respond
 - After the 60 day due process period, proposed changes will or will not be made based on a claimant's response

Liberalizing Legislation

- Liberalizing Legislation is a law that allows VA to grant benefits up to one year prior to the Veteran's original date of claim

- Who is eligible?

- A Veteran that is age 65 or older on September 17, 2001

OR

- A Veteran that has been in a Medicaid approved skilled/intermediate nursing home continuously since September 17, 2001

OR

- A Veteran that has been in receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance continuously since September 17, 2001

Liberalizing Legislation (continued)

How to Apply for Liberalizing Legislation:

- Submit an Eligibility Verification Report (VA Form 21-0516) and a Medical Expense Report (VA Form 21-8416) for **one year prior to the date of claim**
- If Veteran is receiving Special Monthly Pension, submit Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance (VA Form 21-2680) with information for **one year prior to the date of claim**
- If the Veteran is in a care facility, submit care expense information for **one year prior to the date of claim**

Qualifications for DIC

- Veteran died of a service-connected condition
- Service-connected condition contributed to the cause of death
- Died of a presumptive service-connected condition
- Had a 100% service-connected evaluation or was entitled to Individual Unemployability for 10 years immediately preceding death
 - Surviving spouse may be entitled to additional benefit if the Veteran was entitled to 100% service connection for at least 8 years immediately preceding death and was married to the spouse for those same 8 years.

Burial Benefits

Types of Burial Benefits

- Non-service connected (NSC)
- Service-connected

How to Apply

- Submit VA Form 21P-530 (within two years of death if NSC)
- Death Certificate (needs to show cause of death)
- Statement of Account (needs to show who paid the expenses)
 - Also may show additional plot expenses such as the opening / closing fees that we can allow for NSC
- Certified copy of discharge document (if Veteran was not receiving benefits)

Non-Service Connected Burial

Eligibility:

- In receipt of compensation or pension at the time of death
- Receiving military retired pay in lieu of compensation
- Had a claim pending at the time of death (found entitled)
- Died while under VA care

Service Connected Burial and Transportation

Eligibility:

- Veteran died of a service-connected condition
- Service-connected condition contributed to the cause of death
- Died of a presumptive service-connected condition
- Had a 100% service-connected evaluation prior to death

Transportation is payable if:

- Veteran dies under VA Care, or
- If died of a non-service connected condition AND was in receipt of service- connected compensation AND is buried in a National Cemetery
- If died of a service-connected condition AND is buried in a National Cemetery
- Statement of Account is required

Automated Burial Process

Burial and Plot payments are automatically payable to the surviving spouse of record when the First Notice of Death (FNOD) is processed

- FNOD can be processed by a call center, CVSO phone line, or other notification
- If the Veteran was 100% service-connected at the time of death, service-connected burial benefits are automatically paid
- Information available during FNOD process determines if plot is payable

VA Form 21P-530 and supporting documentation is not required unless eligible for transportation and / or plot expenses

Accrued Benefits

- Benefits due to the beneficiary but not paid prior to death
- Claim must be filed within one year of the death of the beneficiary
- No time limit for non-negotiated checks
- Can be eligible by relationship or reimbursement

Accrued Benefits (continued)

Relationship

- Spouse
- Child(ren) for VA purposes
- Parent(s), if dependent on the Veteran at the time of the Veteran's death
- Submit VA Form 21-534 or VA Form 21-601 and a copy of beneficiary's death certificate

Reimbursement

- When no one is entitled by basis of relationship, anyone who paid expenses related to the beneficiary's last illness or burial is eligible for reimbursement
- Submit VA Form 21-601, copy of beneficiary's death certificate and proof of paid expenses

Substitution Claim

Substitution Claim

- If the Veteran had a claim pending at the time of death, evidence to support claim pending at the time of death may be submitted by substitute claimant.
- PMC has jurisdiction of:
 - Any Veteran's pension claim
 - Veteran's compensation claims which inextricably intertwine with our pending DIC or Survivors Pension claim
 - Any non-Veteran's claims pending at death

Substitution Appeal

Substitution Appeal

- If the Veteran had an appeal pending at the time of death, the substitution appeal will be worked by the office with jurisdiction.
- PMC has jurisdiction of:
 - Any Veteran's pension appeal
 - Veteran's compensation appeal which inextricably intertwines with a pending DIC or Survivors Pension claim
 - Any non-Veteran's appeals pending at death

Appeals

Compensation Appeals:

- Standardized form is required to file appeal (VA Form 21-0958)
- Rapid Appeals Modernization Act (RAMP) appeal option is currently only available for live Compensation appeals

PMC Appeals:

- Filing an appeal for PMC claims does not require the standardize appeal VA Form 21-0958
- Pension and Survivor appeals are not currently an option for the RAMP appeal process (Do not use the RAMP election form for PMC appeals)

Centralized Mail Portal

- Effective March 1, 2016, all St. Paul PMC mail should be sent to this address:

**Department Of Veterans Affairs
Claims Intake Center
Attention: St. Paul Pension Center
PO Box 5365
Janesville, WI 53547-5365**

- Effective April 17, 2017, the Pension toll-free fax line is available for use:

1-844-655-1604

Contact Information

- CVSO Telephone Line: 612-713-8978
(8:00-4:30) Central Time
- PMC Toll Free Telephone Line: 1-877-294-6380
- VBASPL/PMCVSO (if in outlook)
- Debt Management Center (DMC) 1-612-970-5737

Thank you!

Questions?

